forming a bed covering layer by covering the rotary bed of the rotary bed direct reducing furnace immediately before charging the wet raw material pellets by insulating material particles having a higher melting point than the heating temperature in said reducing furnace for reducing the wet raw material pellets; and

C1

charging the wet raw material pellets on said bed covering layer.

C2

23. (New) A method of reducing wet raw material pellets, comprising:

preparing wet raw material pellets comprising a wet mixture of iron oxide powder and reducing material powder;

forming a bed covering layer comprising insulating material particles having a higher melting point than a heating temperature in a rotary bed direct reducing furnace configured to reduce the wet raw material pellets;

charging the wet raw material pellets on said bed covering layer; and

reducing the wet raw material pellets by heating in said rotary bed direct reducing furnace.

24. (New) A method for reducing the wet raw material pellets according to claim 23, wherein said insulating material particles comprises particles made of a material selected from the group consisting of limestone, dolomite, and a basic oxide mixture of lime stone and dolomite.

25. (New) A method for reducing the wet raw material pellets according to claim 23, wherein the insulating particles each have a diameter in a range between 1 mm to 5 mm.

26. (New) A method for reducing the wet raw material pellets according to claim 23, wherein the forming comprises forming a layer of the insulating particles having a layer thickness in a range between 1 mm to 5 mm.

27. (New) A method for reducing the wet raw material pellets according to claim 23,